

USDA Rural Development 2004 Accomplishments Colorado



Committed to the future of rural communities
www.rurdev.usda.gov/co/index.html



Agriculture Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development Gilbert Gonzalez

Citizens and community leaders throughout rural American share a common desire to bring economic opportunity and an improved quality of life to their community. There is a remarkable cohesiveness among rural citizens that allows the energy and enthusiasm of local citizens to harness the resources needed to bring solutions to economic and social issues facing their communities.



Today, more Americans than ever are realizing their dream of becoming a homeowner. Bringing stability to families, neighborhoods and increasing personal family wealth through building of financial equity in their future. I am proud to say that 20 percent of the first-time homeowners receiving financing this year are minority families.

We are committed to aggressively working to help families, communities and businesses build the basic community infrastructure, help create more local jobs and gain access to educational and health care services and technologies that allow them to be better prepared to compete in a global environment.

While we have accomplished much, we know that more must be done to assist more families, businesses, and communities benefit from the financing and technical assistance USDA Rural Development provides. That is why I unveiled this year a new education and outreach effort designed to ensure everyone in rural areas know what assistance is available to help them achieve their economic goals and improve their quality of life. Simply put, USDA Rural Development is the sole government agency that can build rural communities from the ground up.

To date, the Bush Administration, through USDA Rural Development, has invested \$50 billion to help create or save over 800,000 jobs. We have a team of dedicated professionals capable and ready to work with you to improve the quality of life in rural Colorado. I encourage you to contact your local or state office in Colorado to learn more about how USDA Rural Development can help improve the quality of life and increase the economic opportunity in your community.



Pictured on Cover: A group of homeowners building their homes through the Mutual Self Help Housing Program in Cortez, CO; Gigi Dennis, State Director and children from the Park Avenue Preschool in Canon City; and Lt. Governor Jane Norton and Gigi Dennis present representatives from the Rocky Mountain SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. in Conjeos, CO with a ceremonial community facility grant check.

State Director for USDA Rural Development
Gigi Dennis

“Committed to the future of rural communities” Sounds simple, yet these seven words have become the cornerstone for USDA Rural Development.

This past February, Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture, and Gil Gonzalez, Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development, unveiled the most dramatic definition our agency has seen. Our new brand reflects the nature of our mission: a house, a building, and a water tower, along with the landscape of agriculture.



The purpose of this brand is to reemphasize to the public the expanding circle of programs Rural Development offers. We are focused on helping communities thrive. With our partners and dedicated employees, we are guiding the process in creating economic prosperity to families of all shapes and sizes, minorities, non-profits, and municipalities.

In Colorado, we have seen the results of our efforts. We are celebrating our best year yet in providing housing, infrastructure, job creation, as well as grants towards technical assistance, community facilities, renewable energy, value-added production, and distance learning/telemedicine. Some \$108 million in grants and loans have impacted the lives of our citizens. Over the last 4 years, under President George W. Bush, some \$1.2 billion has been invested in rural Colorado!

This annual report reflects celebrations, successes, and the hopes and ideas of so many people who have invested time, money, and effort in developing these dreams into reality.

If you have any questions regarding Rural Development's programs, please contact any one of our offices and we will be happy to help. We are *“Committed to the future of rural communities”*.


Gigi Dennis
State Director

We're meeting the challenges to America. We're strengthening our economy...And we're not going to leave our work half-finished. We'll press on to turn our recovery into lasting growth and opportunity that this great nation will prosper."

George W. Bush, January 7, 2003, Strengthen America's Economy address

RURAL HOUSING

The Rural Housing Program provides rural Coloradoans with funding for single family homes, apartments for very low and low income persons/families or the elderly, housing for farm workers, and much more.

In Fiscal Year 2004, **\$76,624,897** was invested in Colorado through Rural Development's Single Family and Multi Family Housing Programs.

The Single Family Housing Program is comprised of the following programs: Guaranteed Home Loans, Mutual Self Help Housing Loans, Mutual Self Help Technical Assistance Grants and Site Loans, Rural Home Loan Partnerships, Community Development Financial Institution Partnerships, Direct Home Loans, and Home Repair Grants and Loans.

Six hundred seventy nine individuals/families became homeowners in Fiscal Year 2004 through the direct and guaranteed home loan programs alone.



Mutual Self Help Housing
84 Loans - \$9,099,111

The Mutual Self Help Housing Program, part of the Direct Home Loan Program, offers very low and low income applicants the opportunity to build their own, using sweat equity in lieu of a down payment.

A group of homeowners build their own home, with construction technical assistance from a non-profit organization (sponsor) funded by the USDA Rural Development's Mutual Self Help Technical Assistance Grant Program.

Homeowners contribute an average of 900 hours towards the building process and upon completion, end up with an average amount of \$10,000 - \$15,000 in equity already built into their home.

The organizations currently administering this program in Colorado are: Colorado Housing Inc., the Colorado Rural Housing Development Corp., Gunnison County Housing Authority, Housing Resources,



Ribbon cutting for newly completed Mutual Self Help homes in Steamboat Springs, CO

Inc., North East Colorado Housing, Inc., Regional Affordable Living Foundation, Tri County Housing, Inc., and the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments.



Rural Home Loan Partnerships and Community Financial Institution Partnerships
47 Loans - \$4,724,369

The Rural Home Loan Partnership and Community Development Financial Institution programs work with approved non-profit organization to leverage

Fiscal Year 2004 Rural Housing Program Funding - \$76,624,897

502 Other Direct Loans	\$11,526,412
Mutual Self Help Housing Loans	\$ 9,099,111
502 RHLP/CDFI Loans	\$ 4,724,369
Mutual Self Help Technical Assistance Grant Program	\$ 1,564,876
Guaranteed Loan Program	\$44,790,110
Home Repair Loan Program	\$ 263,455
Home Repair Grant Program	\$ 277,734
Natural Disaster Grant Program	\$ 50,165
Rural Rental Housing Program - Rehab	\$ 1,124,300
Farm Labor Housing Loan Program	\$ 1,850,000
Farm Labor Housing Grant Program	\$ 1,300,000
Housing Preservation Grant Program	\$ 54,365

RURAL HOUSING

loans with local lenders to purchase or build affordable housing throughout rural communities in Colorado.

In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development partnered with Colorado Housing Assistance Corp., Colorado Housing Enterprises, Inc., Mercy Housing Southwest, and Prairie Development Corp., to help buy, build, repair, or rehabilitate 47 homes in Colorado.



Other Direct Home Loans
126 Loans - \$11,526,412

A Direct Home Loan can be made to very low and low income applicants for up to 100% of market value or cost. Applicants must not be able to acquire conventional financing and these loans do not require a down payment.



Guaranteed Home Loans
419 Loans - \$44,790,110

USDA Rural Development can guarantee loans made by approved mortgage lenders in Colorado. Families/individuals of moderate income or less are eligible to apply. Eligibility is based on the family's adjusted income and cannot exceed 115% of the median income for their area.

Homes financed through this program can either be new or

existing, but must be modest in cost. New manufactured homes are also acceptable. There is no mortgage limit and no down payment is required.

Congratulations to our top four originating guaranteed lenders in Fiscal Year 2004: Equitable Savings and Loan, First Mortgage Corp., Wells Fargo Bank/Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, and Rocky Mountain Mortgage Specialists.



Home Repair Loans and Grants
27 Loans - \$263,455
48 Grants - \$277,734

Very low income homeowners are eligible for assistance through the Home Repair Loan and Grant Program. Funding is available to help remove health and/or safety hazards and repair their homes. Eligibility is also contingent that applicants must own their home and cannot obtain conventional financing.

Loan terms are at 1% up to 20 years and cannot exceed \$20,000. Grants are available to applicants 62 years or older, with limited income, and the maximum lifetime grant amount of \$7,500.

HOME IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Irene Martinez and her disabled daughter have lived in their home in Cortez, Colorado for 18 years. Martinez, a widow, lives on a fixed income and any home maintenance projects had been postponed for several years. Now her home is in need of drastic repairs.

Martinez was experiencing high heating costs during the winter months, which stretched her already thin budget. Her roof was in major disrepair and there were open leaks where water would run into the house each time it rained. The windows in the front portion of the home were also damaged. They were loose and falling away from the frame. The gap was so significant that a person could actually stick a finger through the cracks to the outside.

Martinez contacted Housing Solutions of the Southwest in Cortez about funding to have her home repaired to improve heat retention. Through a partnership with Rural Development she was able to receive grant funds for the repairs.

Insulation was installed in the attic where there previously was an inadequate amount.

Martinez was also able to replace her roof and completely enclose the attic, ensuring that no moisture could drain into the home.

Rural Development also replaced the windows in the front of the

house. New frames and double paned glass were installed, sealing the home from a major loss of heat.

During the final inspection of Martinez's home, she noted that she could already tell a difference in the temperature in her home. She would not have been able to get her home fully repaired without the collaborative effort provided by both USDA Rural Development and Housing Solutions of the Southwest.



Pictures of Irene Martinez's windows, before (top) and after (bottom).



Brian, Thomas, Connor, Ruth, Liam, and Gretchen Orr at their home in Walsenburg, CO.

Attaining the Dream: Homeownership

After renting the same house in Walsenburg for 12 years, Gretchen Orr and her family never thought they would be able to afford a place of their own to call home. However, through the USDA Rural Development 502 Direct Home Loan Program, the family of six has now attained their dream, homeownership.

The family recently moved into a five bedroom, one and a half bath, home in Walsenburg, CO. Gretchen recently wrote to Nicky

Foster, Rural Development Loan Specialist, in the Las Animas Office about her experience.

"Nicky we thank you again SO SO much for everything you have done for us. This is just a dream come true for us. We would never have imagined we could someday own such a wonderful home. Your program is fabulous- really makes a wonderful difference in the lives of your clients,"- Gretchen Orr.

USDA Rural Development's Five Star Commitment To Expand Rural Minority Homeownership



- * Lowering Fees To Reduce Barriers to Minority Homeownership*
- * Doubling the Number of Self-Help Participants By 2010*
- * Increasing Participation by Minority Lenders through Outreach*
- * Promoting Credit Counseling and Homeownership Education*
- * Monitoring Lending Activities to Ensure 10% Increase In Minority Homeownership*



In Fiscal Year 2004, an all time record high of 76.1% homeownership in rural areas was evidence that USDA Rural Development programs are working. Nationwide, over 170,000 families have attained their dream of homeownership.

RURAL HOUSING

The Multi Family Housing Program helps provide adequate rental housing in rural areas for people with low or moderate incomes.

The Multi Family Housing Program consists of the Rural Rental Housing Program, Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program, Farm Labor Housing Program, and the Housing Preservation Program.

USDA Rural Development maintains 4,154 units of affordable housing for elderly, individuals/families, and farm workers in Colorado.

In Fiscal Year 2004, Colorado utilized **\$4,328,665** through Rural Rental Housing Direct and Guaranteed Loans, Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants, and Housing Preservation Grants.



Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing

The Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loan Program is designed to present commercial lenders with an incentive to develop and/or repair rental apartments for tenants whose income is 115% above the area income. Each year, a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is published identifying the requirements and necessary documentation needed to apply. The NOFA website is www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html.



Direct Rural Rental Housing Program **\$1,124,300**

The Direct Rural Rental Housing Loan 515 Program provides funding for new construction or rehabilitation of existing 515 apartment developments.

Northeast Colorado Housing, Inc.

Fort Morgan Townhomes
Fort Morgan, CO
\$320,000

Grand County Housing Authority

Grand Living Solar Development
Granby, CO
\$95,000

North Avenue Apartments, LLLP

North Avenue Apartments
Trinidad, CO
\$97,500

Antonito Housing Partnership

Guadalupe Hacienda Apartments
Antonito, CO
\$57,600

Antonito Housing Partnership, II

Gomez Manor Apartments
Antonito, CO
\$59,200

Grand Mesa Apartments

Fruita, CO
\$375,000

West Routt Housing

Hayden, CO
\$120,000



Salida Apartments, Multi Family Housing Complex of the Year



Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Program **\$3,150,000**

Providing farm workers and their families with decent, safe, and sanitary housing is the focus of the Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Program.

This year Colorado received a \$1,700,000 loan and \$1,300,000 grant for Catholic Charities to build a new 42 unit development in Gilcrest, CO.

The Lamar Housing Authority also received a \$150,000 loan for Emerald Homes Farm Labor Housing in Lamar.



Housing Preservation Grant **\$54,365**

Funding to help to correct access, health, and safety related issues and to alleviate overcrowding in existing homes and rental units is provided through the Housing Preservation Grant Program.

Two grants were awarded in Fiscal Year 2004 for \$27,183 each to the Northwest Council of Governments (NWCOG) and to the Huerfano/Las Animas Council of Governments (COG) for \$27,182.

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

USDA Rural Development partners with local economic organizations such as banks, lenders, economic development groups, cities, counties, tribes, and utility cooperatives through our Business and Community (BCP) Program.

In Fiscal Year 2004, **\$41,546,049** was utilized for rural Colorado through the BCP Program.



Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program **\$21,332,500**

This year, Rural Development was fortunate to fund the largest Business and Industry Loan in the state's history for \$16.5 million. The loan was made to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority for the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Colorado also funded an additional \$4,832,500 in Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans across the state.



Renewable Energy Grant Program **\$500,000**

Blue Sun Biodiesel, received Colorado's first Renewable Energy Systems/Energy Efficiency Improvements Program Grant for \$500,000. The entity opened the country's

first high-volume commercial bio-diesel blending terminal in Alamosa, CO in the fall of 2004. Rural Development funding will be used to assist with the construction of a state of the art bio-diesel production facility, which will be co-located with the terminal in Alamosa



Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program **\$300,000**

Throughout the United States, over 120 million people are members of 48,000 cooperatives. Cooperatives play a vital role in the communities they are located in and often their success can determine a town's future. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of these rural communities by striving to promote the understanding of using cooperatives as a business opportunity to market and distribute agricultural products.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union received a Rural Cooperative Development Grant for \$300,000. These grants, awarded on a competitive basis, are on ongoing effort by the Bush Administration to increase economic opportunities in rural areas.



Dan Mortensen - Alta Fuels, Jeff Probst - Blue Sun, Gigi Dennis, State Director, and Representative Lewis Entz cut the ribbon for Alta Fuel's Biodiesel plant in Alamosa, CO

The grants help foster rural cooperative development through projects that provide rural residents with education and technical assistance in areas of cooperative start-up, marketing and managing, and other self-help tools. The RMFU will utilize the cooperative development grant funding to provide technical assistance to emerging and existing cooperatives in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.



Intermediary Relending Program **\$250,000**

Capitalizing on locally run revolving loan programs for small businesses which are unable to obtain adequate bank financing is the goal of the Intermediary Relending Program.

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado received a \$250,000 Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) Loan from Rural Development in Fiscal Year 2004. The entity promotes and coordinates economic development in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Pictured: Chris Voigt - Executive Director, Gigi Dennis, State Director, Board Members Segundo Diaz and Keith Holland, CO Potato Admin. Committee, and Peter Thomas, Business & Cooperative Prog. Administrator

Counties in Colorado and will loan the funds to ultimate recipients for business facilities or community development.



Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program **\$436,282**

\$436,282 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) funding was awarded this year to six entities.

The Costilla County Economic Development Council and Costilla County received a \$150,000 grant to purchase necessary equipment to produce bio-diesel fuel from canola seed.

The San Luis Valley Resource and Conservation Development District received a \$99,700 RBEG to purchase cooling equipment and to fund a marketing study for local producers.

The Colorado Cooperative Council, Inc., received a grant for \$27,783 to prepare a feasibility study for the Producers Coop in Olathe, CO

The Leadville Institute of Science and Technology in Leadville, received a \$27,393 grant to complete a feasibility study for a hydrogen production/fuel cell pilot facility.

The San Luis Valley Development Resources Group received a \$40,000 grant to develop a comprehensive business plan for an economically viable enterprises in the San Luis Valley.

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union received a grant for \$73,799 to provide focused technical assistance to new cooperative market places opening along the Front Range.



Value Added Producer Grant Program **\$169,375**

Encouraging farmers and ranchers to increase their economic opportunities through the development of new products and

markets for agriculturally based products is the cornerstone for USDA Rural Development's Value Added Producer Grant (VADG) Program.

In Fiscal Year 2004, Colorado received \$169,375 in funding for the Value Added Program.

The Wray Wind Farmer Group received a \$128,000 grant. The group, consisting of 23 independent agricultural producers from three families in the Wray area, will use the grant funding to conduct a feasibility study for a

Fiscal Year 2004 Business & Community Programs Funding - \$41,546,049

Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	\$21,332,500
Renewable Energy Systems/Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$ 500,000
Rural Cooperative Development Grant	\$ 300,000
Intermediary Relending Program	\$ 250,000
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	\$ 436,282
Value Added Producer Grants	\$ 169,375
Water and Waste Loans	\$ 5,364,515
Water and Waste Grants	\$ 4,141,337
Solid Waste Management Grants	\$ 51,263
Community Facility Loans	\$ 7,710,000
Community Facility Grants	\$ 437,732
Rural Cooperative Home-based Demonstration Grant Program	\$ 50,000
Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program	\$ 452,154

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

farmer owned wind generation project.

The group hopes to increase value to their existing farming and livestock operations by adding a new business entity, which will generate a profit by selling power generated from on-farm wind.

The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee in Monte Vista, CO received a \$41,375 grant. Funding will allow the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee to perform a feasibility study on deriving starch from off-grade potatoes to reduce the level of cash loss to farmers due to the costs of transporting and disposing of off-grade potatoes.



Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program **\$9,557,115**

In Fiscal Year 2004, \$9,547,115 in funding was utilized under the Water and Waste Program. The program provides grants, direct loans, and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for this type of assistance.

Six entities received water and waste loan and grant funding for projects in their communities:

Deer Trail

\$717,000 (L) \$1,000,000 (G)

Town of Aguilar

\$1,226,500 (L), \$508,850 (G)

Town of Wiley

\$400,000 (L), \$739,000 (G)

Model Water

\$101,000 (L), \$302,000 (G)

Agate Water

\$97,600 (L), \$75,000 (G)

Rocky Ford Water

\$2,822,415 (L), \$1,506,487 (G)

Brandon Water Association

\$10,000 Pre-development Grant



Solid Waste Management Grant Program **\$51,263**

Solid Waste Management Grants are also available through Rural Development for nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems.

Two Solid Waste Management Grants (SWMG) were awarded in Fiscal Year 2004 for \$51,263.

Town of Oak Creek

\$22,263 Grant

Ute Mountain Tribe

\$29,000 Grant



Thomas C. Dorr, Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman presents a child care grant in Trinidad, CO



Community Facility Loan and Grant Program **\$8,147,732**

The USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas.

The communities facilities program utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: guaranteed loans, direct loans, and grants.

In Fiscal Year 2004, **\$8,147,732** was used for these programs in Colorado. Thirty loans and grants were funded for the following entities:

Park Avenue Preschool in Canon City

\$509,000 (L), \$10,000 (G)
The Pinon Project in Cortez
\$18,000 (G)

Limon Child Development Center in Limon

\$300,000 (L), \$50,000 (G)
Custer County Family in Westcliffe
\$7,725 (G)

Fisher's Peak YMCA in Trinidad
\$7,000 (G)

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Staff and children from the Limon Child Development with Rural Development checks.

South Central Council of Governments in Trinidad
\$46,220 (G)

Southern Colorado Rocky Mountain SER in Trinidad
\$11,965 (G)

Conejos Rocky Mountain SER
\$33,000 (G)

Town of Mancos
\$25,000 (G)

Windsor Charter School
\$2,500,000 (Guaranteed L)

Community Connections in Durango
\$3,755 (G)

San Juan Historical Society
\$10,000 (G)

Washington County Nursing Facility in Akron
\$6,090 (G)

Town of Illiff
\$12,700 (G)

Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments in Canon City
\$700,000 (L)

Town of Eckley
\$15,960 (G)

Valley Citizen's Foundation in Del Norte
\$25,000 (G)

Town of San Luis
\$725,000 (L)

Montrose County
\$3,575 (G)

Tenderfoot Child & Family Center in Gunnison
\$625,000 (L), \$25,000 (G)

Kiowa County
\$1,250,000 (Guaranteed L)

Grover Regional Library
\$5,000 (G)

Town of Walsh
\$11,830 (G)

Hanover Fire Protection District
\$25,000 (G)

Dove Creek Ambulance
\$25,000 (G)

Dove Creek Fire Protection
\$25,000 (G)

Artesia Fire Protection
\$25,000 (G)

Montezuma County Housing Authority
\$50,000 (L)



Cooperative Home-Based Demonstration Program \$50,000

Helping community organizations establish and operate home-based health care cooperatives is the goal of the USDA Rural Development Cooperative Home-based Demonstration Program.

The Rocky Mountain Health Foundation in Grand Junction received a \$50,000 pre-planning grant in Fiscal Year 2004.

The foundation will utilize the funding to establish a cooperative through the foundation and its affiliate, the Western Slope Forum, to use telemedicine devices to monitor patients with chronic heart failure. The tele-health technology is available to monitor and manage the patient's risk factors remotely, with minimal training to the patient and to transmit data to a central location where it is reviewed by health care professionals.



Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program \$452,154

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program supports the development and deployment of advanced telemedicine and distance systems in rural areas.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the East Central Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) received a \$452,154 DLT grant. The grant will be used for the Fiber 515 Project, which will allow 6000 students in 19 school districts to have access to an advanced network infrastructure for advance placement, foreign language, and ag/vocational educational coursework.

USDA CELEBRATES FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Lt. Governor Jane Norton joined Gigi Dennis, State Director, USDA Rural Development, and Paul Cooke, Director, Colorado Division of Fire Safety at the Colorado Springs Fire Department Headquarters to declare October 3 – 9, 2004 as Fire Prevention Week.

Colorado has approximately 391 fire departments statewide, with over 15,000 firefighters. USDA Rural Development is able to support these small, rural communities through the President's First Responders Initiative, which builds on strengthening the existing capabilities at the Federal, State, and local level.

Under the Bush Administration, USDA invested nearly \$740 million in loans and grant funds to assist rural communities with first responders needs nationwide. In Fiscal Year 2004 alone \$22 million was dedicated to first responders projects.

The Artesia Fire Protection District, in Moffat County, received a \$25,000 grant to

reconstruct a garage for their fire truck, which was donated by the district.

The Dove Creek Volunteer Fire Department, in Dolores County, received a \$25,000 grant to help purchase a fire truck, which they will leverage with \$140,000 in grants that they already have.

They also received a \$25,000 grant for their ambulance service (pictured above), which will be combined with approximately \$113,000 in funds from community fund raising, the Colorado EMS Council, and volunteer labor to purchase an ambulance.

The Hanover Volunteer Fire Department, in El Paso County, received a \$25,000 grant to assist in the repair of their fire station.

The Town of Walsh, in Baca County, also received a grant for

\$11,830 to purchase portable radio equipment and a mobile air compressor which can be used to recharge a firefighter's breathing apparatus.



Chief Carl Tatum, Hanover Fire Department receives a ceremonial grant check for \$25,000 from Gigi Dennis, State Director, and Colorado Lt. Governor Jane Norton

Washington, DC Visits Rural Colorado



Thomas C. Dorr, Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, was the keynote luncheon speaker at the Colorado Rural Development Council Conference (CRDC), "Rural Communities: The Heart of Colorado". The event was held in Longmont and was hosted by the CRDC and the Colorado Rural Health Council. Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Don Ament was awarded the Trailblazer of the



Year Award by the Council. Continuing his visit, Dorr joined State Director, Gigi Dennis, on a tour of Rural Development projects in the Southern part of the state. Dorr met with Mountain View Harvest Cooperative Directors and toured Gerard's Bakery, in Longmont, CO, presented three child care facility grants to the Southern Colorado Head Start, the Huerfano/Las Animas Council of Governments, and the Fishers Peak YMCA in Trinidad, presented the Mayor of Aguilar with a \$1.7 million ceremonial check for their water and waste project, and was the keynote luncheon speaker at the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce (COC).



Pictured top left: Dorr, Gigi Dennis, and Commissioner Don Ament, top right Dorr, Sandy Edens, Rural Development Engineer, and Shelly Sarrell, San Isabel Electric Association, Inc. in Pueblo West viewing a demonstration of a wind monitoring system, and bottom right Dorr speaking with Bob Wiley of Boone at Greater Pueblo COC Luncheon. (July 2004)



Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator for USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service presented the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) with a check for a \$300,000 Rural Cooperative Development Grant and a \$73,799 Rural Business Enterprise Grant.

Pictured at left: Holding the check are Anderson, Scott Thayer, Director, Business & Community Programs, Leroy Cruz, Area Director, Dennis, Dyan del Gaudio, Market Manager, Colorado Farm and Art Market, Thomas McCracken, Tres Rios Cooperative, and RMFU Staff Ben Way, Executive Director, Bob Mailander, Director, Rocky Mtn Cooperative Development Center, and Dan Hobbs, Cooperative Development Specialist. (September 2004).



Rural Development employees from the Western United States met in Denver, CO in July 2004 for one of two National Policy Meetings. Several different training sessions were held during the week long conference.

Pictured left: Acting Under Secretary Gil Gonzalez, Housing Programs Administrator Russell T. Davis, Utilities Programs Administrator, Hilda Gay Legg, and Business and Cooperative Programs Administrator, Peter J. Thomas.

Washington, DC Visits Rural Colorado



Peter Thomas, Administrator for USDA Rural Development's business programs joined Colorado's USDA Rural Development state director Gigi Dennis to present Wray Farmer Owned Group representatives with a \$128,000 Value Added Producer Grant.



Pictured at left: Kenneth Helling, Jim Lenz, Peter Thomas, Bill Cure, Gigi Dennis, State Director, and Becky Lenz, with a \$41,375 Value Added Producer Grant Ceremonial check for the Wray Wind Farmer Owned Group in Wray, CO. (October 2004)



In October 2004, USDA Rural Development and the Colorado Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH) sponsored the 2004 Multi Family Housing Conference in Colorado Springs, CO. This year's theme was "Working Together for Success". Larry Anderson, Multi Family Housing Specialist from the National Office was a guest speaker at the event and discussed the new regulations covering the Multi Family Housing Program.

Pictured left: Don Pierce, Rural Housing Director, presents Betty Adams, of Salida Apartments with Complex of the Year 2003 at the conference. (October 2004).



Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, joined Acting Under Secretary Gil Gonzalez in Durango to present a ceremonial check to the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad for \$16.5 million for a Business and Industry Loan. Gonzalez also presented four other entities with ceremonial checks totaling \$295,000. Community Connections, Inc., in Durango, received a \$10,000 Community Facility Grant; the San Juan



Historical Society, in Silverton, received a \$10,000 Community Facility Grant; the Town of Mancos received a \$25,000 Community Facility Grant to assist in the renovation of the community center, and Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado received a \$250,000 Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) Loan.



Pictured from top left to right: Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Under Secretary Gonzalez; Senator Jim Isgar, Steve Johnson, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Scott Thayer, USDA Rural Development Business and Community Programs Director, Sue McWilliams, USDA Rural Development Western Area Director, and Al Harper, Owner, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad; and Ed Morlan and Paul

Broderick, from Region 9 accept a ceremonial check from Gigi Dennis, State Director, and Under Secretary Gonzalez. (October 2004).

USDA

Colorado Field & State Office Locations

www.rurdev.usda.gov/co/index.html

State Office

655 Parfet Street, Room E-100,
Lakewood, CO 80125
(720) 544-2903 Fax (720) 544-2969

Western Area Offices

Alamosa Office

2205 State Street, Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-5661 Fax (719) 589-0515
Serving Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral,
Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties

Cortez Office

628 West 5th Street, Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 565-8416 Fax (970) 565-8797
Serving Archuleta, Dolores, LaPlata, Montezuma,
San Juan, and San Miguel Counties

Craig Office

356 Ranney Street, Craig, CO 81625
(970) 824-3476 Fax (970) 824-7055
Serving Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco,
and Routt Counties

Delta Office

690 Industrial Blvd
Delta, CO 81416-2812
(970) 874-5735 Fax (970) 874-0352
Serving Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison,
Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and
Pitkin Counties

Eastern Area Offices

Canon City Office

248 Dozier Avenue, Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-4465 Fax (719) 275-3019
Serving Chaffee, Custer, El Paso, Fremont,
Lake, Park, Pueblo, Summit and Teller Counties

Greeley Office

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